The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and under the direction of the St. Louis Convention, of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly by free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

Entered as second-class matter, September 30, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 3. NO. 8 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1913. — WHOLE NO. 112

ECONOMIC FALLACY.

CHEAP LABOR AND THE JAPS

Californians Now Realize Danger of Asiatic Labor.

BROWN MEN ARE IN CONTROL

Employers in Fruit Area Coddled Asiatics at the Expense of White Workmen.

Fresno, Cal., May 24.—"Cheap labor always brings its bitter harvest," is the view of many members of the State Legislature and a farmer from the San Joaquin Valley, in a recent interview in the newspapers, touched the mainspring of the Japanese situation in California, that resulted in a State-wide demand for relief and which caused the passage of an anti-alien bill by the Legislature, which is now stirred from under the title. This California farmer admits that the employers of the State are paying for what he now considers the most uneconomic sins of the past decade in coddling Asiatic labor at the expense of white toilers, who have gradually been driven off the ranches in whole districts of the State. Thus, he says, Japanese labor, once cheap, has become indispensable and expensive, and the skilled brown man, standing alone in the ranch labor field, hold up the grower at will. "And the Jap was quick to note the trend of things in his own favor," said this farmer. "Japanese bosses controlling gangs of hands prevailed. Gradually they succeeded in getting wages raised. They took good care that the supply never exceeded the demand. When one section had a surplus of Japanese laborers they were shipped to another section to keep the market stable." And this serves the grasping employers of California right. The race chase and scramble for money many of the California employers forgot that there might be a day of reckoning, that the people of California are now fully cognizant of the menace of Asiatic labor, and may be able in a measure to retrieve themselves from their former economic indiscretions.

NEWS FROM TORONTO.

Toronto, Can., May 24.—At present there are approximately 1,200 wage workers on strike in this city, as follows: Structural Iron Workers, 200; Plasterers' Laborers, 300; Lathers' Helpers and Mill Hands, 150; Tailors, 20; Garment Workers, 300; Photo Engravers, 80, and Cloth Cutters, 350. The proposed agreement presented by the local union of Amalgamated Glass Workers has been accepted by every firm in the city with two exceptions. These latter firms, however, are large manufacturers of stained glass windows for churches and ornamental leaded windows of all kinds. The struggle is very quiet, however, for securing an amicable adjustment from the firms in question. The strike of the above branches of the J. W. Hewitson Company has ended in a complete victory for the union, all demands having been fully granted. During the last six months an advance in wages of 15 per cent has been secured from Iron Molders' also have just secured a settlement, a compromise having been effected. The wages have been raised from $2.10 to $2.42 per day. The Boilermakers and Helpers of St. Thomas, Ont., some eight months ago seceded from the International Union and joined a purely Canadian Union, have recently returned to the parent labor union. The Helpers soon learned that the purely Canadian Union was good on no profits, results, and now acknowledge that they were led astray.

SEATTLE DOINGS.

Seattle, Wash., May 24.—After several weeks of industrious work the Moving Picture Operators' Union has made the city practically a union town. In fact, this class of show houses is concerned. The bakers also have been rewarded handsomely by their efforts. There is but a bakery of any importance in the city that is not working under union conditions, with one or two exceptions. This includes not only the bakers, but the bakery drivers as well. The Riggers and Stevedores' Union has also secured from the sound owners a slight increase in the wage scale and a still further recognition of the organization. This organization is in better shape than for years, with prospects of a continued growth, and still further success in the future.

CAR STRIKE SETTLED.

Cincinnati, May 24.—The street car strike, involving several thousand men, has been settled. Prior to this contest the men employed upon the traction lines were unorganized, but by the strike a form an organization conditions arose that precipitated a strike, which was settled for over a week. An agreement has now been reached whereby the questions at issue are to be submitted to a board of arbitration, the board having already been selected. The Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes' Association has been materially increased in membership by the successful issue of this city and in Buffalo, N. Y., where a successful strike recently took place.

MITCHELL APPOINTED.

Albany, May 24.—John Mitchell has been given a recess appointment by Gov. Sulzer as State Labor Commissioner. It will be remembered that Gov. Sulzer previously appointed Mr. Mitchell, but the State Senate refused confirmation. The appointment of the Legislature, John Williams, Commissioner of Labor, resigned, and John Mitchell was appointed to fill the vacancy. It is conceded by all that the cannibilities of John Mitchell will result in making the well organized labor department of the State one of the most effective branches of the State government.

TAILORS GET 10 PER CENT.

Sioux City, Ia., May 24.—The Journeymen Tailors have just secured an agreement with the op. of the large firms for an increase of 10 per cent. There are two distinct grades in the tailoring industry here and the increase applies to the first class. The journeymen in the second class shops have also been raised, but which does not expire before fall, but it is hoped by that time that the employing tailors will see the necessity of becoming under the A1 classification and make the wages equal.

WILL GO TO ARBITRATION.

St. Paul, May 24.—The St. Paul and Minneapolis Typographical Unions, which have jointly been endeavoring to negotiate a new scale with the newspaper publishers, having failed to come to an agreement, have ordered that the controversy go to arbitration. This is in accordance with the agreement in force between the International Typographical Union and the National Newspaper Publishers' Association.

FIGHTERS REWARDED.

WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Sioux City, Iowa, May 24.—Encouraged by the State Association of Registered Nurses, many student nurses in the various Sioux City hospitals are determined to secure an eight-hour working day and a reduction from the probation course from three years to two years and three months. The convention of the registered nurses' society at Cedar Rapids recently advocated an eight-hour working day, which is already a settled policy in many of the large hospitals in the different cities throughout the State. Some of the hospitals in this city are opposing the shorter hour workday, although admitting the injustice of compelling probationers to work from fourteen to sixteen hours per day. The campaign will be kept up, with the hope that an amicable settlement can be eventually secured.

FALL RIVER NEWS.

Fall River, Mass., May 24.—The painters have been on strike for the past few weeks in an effort to secure an advance in wages and the forty-four-hour week. The members of the organization are standing loyally by their demands and the hope is entertained that an adjustment will be secured. The carpenters also are on strike, about 250 men being involved. The bricklayers and masons are also on strike to secure a wage advance. There seems to be a combination of employers' associations, which has declined to meet the men in conference. These employers' associations have refused the services of the State board of arbitration, although both organizations involved have offered to submit their differences to the board. It is stated that the employers are afraid to place their case before an arbitration tribunal because of the fact that their profits have been exorbitant, and in a comparison with other Massachusetts cities, a larger increase has been asked by the trades involved would be justifiable. As a matter of fact, it is stated that the carpenters' contractors' plan of Boston realize a profit of 5 cents per hour per man, or 40 cents per day, while Fall River contractors have been making a profit per man of $1.26 per day. The same cities' profit, it is stated, is enjoyed by other building trades contractors.

INDICTS STEEL TRUST.

Washington, May 24.—In a speech recently delivered at The Hague anniversary meeting, held under the auspices of the Washington Peace Society, Secretary of State Bryan said in part: "What a blessing that back of much of the furore for war, back of some of the active operatives of the J. W. Hewitson Company has ended in a complete victory for the union, all demands having been fully granted. During the last six months an advance in wages of 15 per cent has been secured from Iron Molders' also have just secured a settlement, a compromise having been effected. The wages have been raised from $2.10 to $2.42 per day. The Boilermakers and Helpers of St. Thomas, Ont., some eight months ago seceded from the International Union and joined a purely Canadian Union, have recently returned to the parent labor union. The Helpers soon learned that the purely Canadian Union was good on no profits, results, and now acknowledge that they were led astray.

BAR UNION MEN.

Syracuse, N. Y., May 24.—Because the American Federation of Labor had been able to secure a large membership of workmen to join the union, the Crucible Steel Company of America closed its steel plant and sent out notices to employes that it would not tolerate them in becoming members of a labor union. Two local unions were formed, one an English speaking and one Italian union, and the growth of these organizations had been phenomenal. No demand for any change in conditions has been made, but the company, knowing their strength in the Steel Trust, evidently proposes to crush all movements not originated by the trust. The Riggers and Stevedores' Union has also secured from the sound owners a slight increase in the wage scale and a still further recognition of the organization. This organization is in better shape than for years, with prospects of a continued growth, and still further success in the future.

YOUNGSTOWN ON MOVE.

Youngstown, Ohio, May 24.—The members of the Tin Plate Union and the Sheet Metal Workers' Union are on strike to secure advances in wages. The workers are asking for $5 a day and $2.60 for their helpers, both eight hours, and the sheet metal workers are seeking a 15 per cent increase. The employers offered a compromise, which was refused. The companies involved have offered to increase per day, the eight hour day prevailing. The latters were successful in securing their demands for per day, making their wage scale $4.50, also eight hours. The lathers were successful in securing their demands for an increase of 25 cents in their wage rate, and a similar advance in piece-work rates.

SUNDRY CIVIL BILL HELD UP.

Washington, May 24.—While the Sundry Civil Bill passed both Houses of Congress, and the provisions of the labor organizations and farmers' unions were incorporated therein, minor changes in certain provisions of that measure sent it to conference of a committee of both Houses. This conference committee has thus far been unable to agree, the Senate insisting upon the House receding from its position in the matter. The personnel of members on the board of control of the National Soldiers' Home. All other points have been settled.

CLOSE BARBER COLLEGES.

St. Louis, May 24.—Every barber college in this city has been closed, after a hearing before the Barbers' Board of Examiners, which established the fact that insanitary conditions existed. And demanded the instant closing. The licenses of the colleges were revoked. These barber colleges have been operated by capitalists throughout the country are usually disease breeders of the worst sort. Barber work is done in dens, and as a rule these shops become extremely filthy and insanitary.

BUFFALO MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 24.—About 2,000 machinists are on strike for an increased wage and a shorter workday. The men demand a nine-hour day, at 37½ cents an hour, a nine-hour day, and five hours on Saturday. The machinists have been working ten hours at a varying scale.

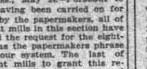
NEW UNIONS ORGANIZED.

Augusta, Ga., May 24.—During the recent convention of the State Federation in this city three new unions were organized—the Pressmen, Moving Picture Operators, and Decorators. All have started out with a good charter list.

FOR A BETTER DAY.

COMPANY BRUTAL.

Oakland, Cal., May 24.—Notwithstanding the fact that the Pullman Palace Car Company declares each year dividends of great magnitude, it resorts to despicable and brutal methods, so far, at least, as a portion of its employes are concerned. It seems that there is now on a general policy of retrenchment by this company, and it has resulted in an order lowering the wages of the women car cleaners employed in the Pullman shops at West Oakland from 24½ cents an hour to 17½ cents per hour. This reduces the wage to an eight-hour day from $1.98 to $1.40. The work done by these women is of a disagreeable nature, and exposes them to the danger of contagion. These women number about fifty, and each group of four women is required to clean seven cars daily.



TOO MUCH EFFICIENCY.

Chicago, May 24.—Too much efficiency in the Lyon & Healy piano factory resulted in a walkout of 200 men recently. The strikers were piano and harp makers, and all high-salaried men. For several months—since the company installed the Emerson efficiency experts, in order to put a plan by which the factory could increase the output in musical instruments without increasing the working force—the conditions of men have been dissatisfied, and, just prior to the strike, issued this ultimatum: "Either the efficiency experts must go, or we leave." The company refused to oust the Emerson experts.

ESTABLISHES EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Groton, Conn., May 24.—The New London Ship and Engine Company has secured three lasting contracts with the United States to go to the eight-hour day. In its announcement to its employes the company states that the employes of the company are to hereafter enjoy the eight-hour day, and that the pay will remain the same for eight hours as formerly received for a nine-hour day. This decision is the direct action resulting from the American Federation of Labor in securing the passage of the eight-hour law for the navy-yards and other appropriation bills, so that as a general proposition the eight-hour law is now operative in all the navy-yards than ever before, and numerous companies now discharging contracts on work for the United States are bringing their plants to an eight-hour basis.

TEXTILE WORKERS.

New York, May 24.—A forty-nine-and-a-half-hour week has been granted to the employes of the Kluge Silk Weaving Company in West New York, N. J., by the Textile Workers' Union. The reduction from fifty-five hours, and all day workers are to receive the same wages formerly paid. Piece weavers secured a 5 per cent increase in wages, and will remain at that figure until July 1 per cent on October 1. All future grievances are to be adjusted between representatives of the local union and the officials of the firm. This betterment of conditions was secured as the result of a three weeks' strike.

CONCEDE UNION SHOP.

Worcester, Mass., May 24.—The contracting electrical shops and the Electrical Workers' Union have signed up an agreement, and the strike which has been on has been declared off. The agreement is in the shape of a compromise. The journeymen wiremen hereafter will receive 45 cents per hour, wages, for an eight-hour day. Helpers or apprentices 17½ cents per hour. The new agreement further calls for forty-four hours a week the entire year and contains also a union shop clause. The Building Trades Council was largely responsible for the union securing of agreement, it having stood behind the Electrical Workers in their demands.

PEARL BUTTON WORKERS.

New York, May 24.—The Pearl Button Workers recently went on strike to secure an advance in wages and a betterment in conditions. Many of the button workers were unorganized, but practically all of these joined the organization and made it a common cause. Regular as it may seem the greater portion of the button workers recently joining the union have been successful in securing the advances demanded by the union and have returned to work while the former members of the organization have not as yet secured a settlement, although the prospects are good for securing one.

WOOD CARVERS.

Boston, Mass., May 24.—General Secretary Thomas J. Lodge, of the International Wood Carvers' Association, reports that the wood carvers in Cleveland, Ohio, have secured an increase of 2½ cents per hour. Recently the Wood Carsion Wood Carvers in Rochester, N. Y., have also secured an increased of 2½ cents per hour. The New York branch of the organization is conducting an organizing campaign and is being successful in securing the affiliation of many nonunion men.

VETOES COMPENSATION BILL.

Albany, May 24.—Gov. Sulzer has vetoed the Workmen's Compensation Commission bill. This bill was opposed by organized labor of the State, and the veto of the measure was in full harmony with the best interests of the laboring people. The bill originally was drawn and called the Murtaugh-Jackson bill, but it was defeated by the insurance interests.

INSTALL BI-MONTHLY PAY DAY.

Altoona, Pa., May 24.—The new State law requiring corporations to pay their employes twice monthly, which was recently approved by the Governor, will be put into effect by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company on July 1. Arrangements are now being made by the company to carry out the law.

FOR A BETTER DAY.

ACHIEVE SPLENDID RESULTS

Tremont Movement Makes Remarkable Progress.

MANY NEW UNIONS FORMED

Organizers of A. F. of L. and Other Labor Officials Deserve Great Credit.

Trenton, N. J., May 24.—The progress made by the organized labor movement in this city has been greater during the past six months than for many years prior. The efforts of the central body, as well as the membership of the unions in general, have been bending every energy to ensure a thorough search of existing unions and to interest nonunion workers. As a result there has been organized in this city the following list of unions during the past few months: Electrical workers, porcelain kilnmen, dust, clay removers, porcelain finishers, porcelain turners and throwers, and two organizations of the workers, one being composed of the building laborers, foundry laborers, bakers, tailors, hardrubber workers, soft-rubber workers, brewery workers, leather workers, truck workers, and wire rope workers. The local organizers for the American Federation of Labor, Messrs. Thompson and Travers, together with President Butterworth, of the Brick, Tile and Terra-cotta workers, have done splendid service in the achievement of these results, as have also many other active spirits in the movement in this city.

KERN RESOLUTION PASSES.

Washington, May 24.—After a discussion running through several legislative days, the House of Representatives, calling for an investigation relative to the conditions in the coal mining section of West Virginia, the resolution has been referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. It is expected that the committee will immediately take up the resolution and report back to the Senate. The reference of the resolution to the Committee on Education and Labor is a victory for those who are opposed to a thorough investigation being made. Voluminous evidence has been gathered with reference to the conditions existing, some of which is of a sensational character. Representatives of the United Mine Workers of America in Washington for many days assisting in spreading the information in their possession to the Senators, and the entire case is accompanied by affidavits and other evidence will be placed before the Committee on Education and Labor. There is no doubt but that upon the above investigation will take place as the result of the introduction and passage of the Kern resolution.

DOES IT PAY TO ORGANIZE?

Murphysboro, Ill., May 24.—The following is a list of the scales of prices of the Sheet Metal Workers, which have been an advance this spring without strike: Sheet Metal Workers, scale last year 37½ cents per hour, this year the wage is 42½ cents per hour, the eight-hour day prevailing. Sheet Metal Workers' helpers' wages ranged from $2 to $2.25 per day, with ten and eleven hours per day. This year the helpers' wages have received 40 cents per hour last year, and this year are receiving 45 cents per hour, the eight-hour day prevailing. The Federal Labor Union, comprising the unions mentioned, was organized about four years ago, and at that time the wages ranged from $1.50 to $1.60 per day for eight hours. Carpenters' wages for skilled labor runs from $2 to $2.40 for eight hours. Journeymen Plasterers receive $6 per day. Carpenters' helpers are receiving from 45 cents to 50 cents per hour.

ON UNFAIR LIST.

Boston, May 24.—The Boston Central Labor Union recently placed all the United Cigar Stores in this city on the unfair list. The action followed an order by the trust managers to the effect that in the future no cigars made in union labor factories would be handled in their stores. When the United Cigar Stores Company was organized several years ago a similar condition existed, but the demand for union made cigars became so strong that the company was forced to put in a line of label cigars. Now the agreement in the shape of a compromise. The journeymen wiremen hereafter will receive 45 cents per hour, wages, for an eight-hour day. Helpers or apprentices 17½ cents per hour. The new agreement further calls for forty-four hours a week the entire year and contains also a union shop clause. The Building Trades Council was largely responsible for the union securing of agreement, it having stood behind the Electrical Workers in their demands.

UNION LABOR TRIUMPHANT.

Philadelphia, May 24.—The Philadelphia Trade Union News says: "All Philadelphia is to be congratulated on the fact that for the first time in its history this city can buy cigars in union label factories would be handled in their stores. When the United Cigar Stores Company was organized several years ago a similar condition existed, but the demand for union made cigars became so strong that the company was forced to put in a line of label cigars. Now the agreement in the shape of a compromise. The journeymen wiremen hereafter will receive 45 cents per hour, wages, for an eight-hour day. Helpers or apprentices 17½ cents per hour. The new agreement further calls for forty-four hours a week the entire year and contains also a union shop clause. The Building Trades Council was largely responsible for the union securing of agreement, it having stood behind the Electrical Workers in their demands.

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SETTLEMENT EFFECTED.

Trenton, N. J., May 24.—A settlement has just been secured for the laborers in the Monument Pottery, and the agreement provides for an increase of 10 per cent in the wages of the men employed in the plant. The agreement is for one year.

GET BACK PAY.

Hazleton, Pa., May 24.—The anthracite coal miners, as a result of a decision recently made by United States Commissioner of Labor Charles P. Neill, as umpire on deadlocked questions submitted to him by the anthracite conciliation board, will receive nearly $500,000 in back pay. The miners have won a victory for four cents per ton submitted to the umpire. The principal decision in which the men are awarded the back pay asserts the position of the miner workers that they were entitled to the 7 per cent bonus under the sliding scale of March, 1912, the last month the old sliding scale was in operation. Under the new agreement entered into between the coal companies and the miners the sliding scale was abolished on April 1 last year.

EARLY HISTORY RECALLED.

Washington, May 24.—Mark W. Moore, formerly manager of the Law Reporting Printing Company, of this city, died Friday, May 16. This brings to mind a bit of history in reference to the American Federation of Labor. On August 4 and 5, 1881, there met in conference in Terre Haute, Ind., a number of labor men. The conference was called for the purpose of devising ways and means whereby there could be secured unity of action among the then few labor organizations scattered throughout the country. Among those who participated in this first conference was Mark W. Moore, and he was designated by that meeting as the permanent secretary of the organizer of the International Trades and Labor Congress. This preliminary meeting results in the conference held in Pittsburg on November 15, 1881, out of which has grown the prodigious and effective Federation of Labor. Brother Mark W. Moore ceased his connection as an officer with the organization upon the formation of the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions, the predecessor of the American Federation of Labor, he not attending the convention held in Pittsburg. Mr. Moore has been the employee of union printers for many years, and has been an exceedingly fair employer.

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

New York, May 24.—The first American conference on social insurance will be held in Chicago June 6 and 7, under the auspices of the American Association for Labor Legislation. The topic which will receive special attention will be the insurance aspects of workmen's compensation laws, and the matter will be given consideration will be sickness insurance, insurance against unemployment, insurance, and kindred topics. This will be the first conference ever held in this country, and the advantages of considering this particular subject of interest in the extension of insurance to industrial accidents, as well as accidents as shown in the introduction in Congress of a bill by Senator Kern for relief for the employees of the government.

STEEL WORKERS' INCREASE.

Fort Wayne, Ind., May 24.—The last bimonthly wage settlement of the new Steel Trust by the Amalgamated Association of Iron Steel, and Tin Workers and representatives Bar Iron Workers' Association and the Republic Iron and Steel Company was effected recently. Examination of the figures showed a slight advance in the selling price of bar iron and an advance of another point was granted the workers, making the present rate for June and July 1.50 and advancing the puddling rate from $6.60 to $6.75 a ton, with a further increase for finishers. This is the highest puddling rate received since 1907. Fully 15,000 workmen affiliated with the organization are affected.

USING PICTURE SLIDES.

Chicago, May 24.—Members of the Chicago Union Boilermakers' Council went to work in the outlying sections of the city by furnishing to the moving picture shows picture slides of the union shop union labels. Ten of these slides are used each night in a number of these amusements that have been organized, and that in the course of a short time the patrons of these places become familiar with the union label. It is stated that this plan has had the effect of materially increasing the demand for union labels in the sections where these labels have been displayed.

SPRINGFIELD CARPENTERS.

Springfield, Ill., May 24.—The strike of the Carpenters' Union, which went into effect recently, is still on. A large number of the contractors have signed the advanced wage scale, and practically two-thirds of all the union carpenters are at work. The Contractors' Association, however, are holding out, but it is believed that it will be only a matter of a short time when they will concede to the scale paid by the large number of independent contractors.

ROCK ISLAND CARPENTERS.

Rock Island, Ill., May 24.—Owing to a disagreement over an advanced wage scale, the carpenters in this city went on strike. Practically all of the union carpenters, however, for within forty-eight hours an agreement was signed whereby the men are to receive 50½ cents per hour for this year and next year are to receive a still further raise, making the scale 55 cents per hour.

SEEKS COMMITTEE PUBLICITY.

Washington, May 24.—Publicity of the meetings of House committees is demanded in a resolution introduced by Congressman Smith, of New York. The resolution provides that a book of minutes shall be kept of all committee meetings, and that these minutes shall be open to the scrutiny of the public and shall also be printed in the Record.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY RAISE.

Washington, May 24.—Employes in the shops of the Southern Railway Company have been granted an increase in wages ranging from 4 to 5 per cent. The increase goes into effect on the 16th of the Southern Railway system shops, affecting several thousand men.

TO PRESENT DEMANDS.

Detroit, May 24.—The conductors of forty-eight Eastern railroads will present their demands for an increase in wages from 10 per cent to 20 per cent on July 1. It is asserted that if the roads refuse to arbitrate a strike will be ordered immediately thereafter.

UNIONS TO BLAME.

FLOOD OF WAGE INCREASES

Carpenters Securing Betterments in Many Cities.

SHOPMEN ALSO PARTICIPATE

Majority of Advances Secured Without Contest, Strikes Being the Exception.

Indianapolis, May 24.—The following successful trade movements have recently been reported to Secretary Frank Duffy, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters: At Bloomington, N. Y., after a two days' strike, an increase in wages was secured of 36 cents per day. Lawrence, Kans., gained increases of 7-24 cents per hour, making the minimum wage 3-4 cents per hour, following a strike lasting five days. Watertville, Me., an increase from $2.75 to $3.00 sought, but compromise was effected on a minimum wage of $3. In Bloomington Ill., machine men were increased from 31 cents to 37½ cents per hour, and bench men from 31 cents to 37½ cents per hour, after a short strike. Increases in wages and better working conditions were secured in the following places without strike: Schenectady, N. Y., an increase from 45 cents to 50 cents per hour. Princeton, N. J., increase from 40½ cents to 50 cents per hour. Mount Vernon, Ill., increase from 40 cents to 42½ cents per hour. Springfield, Mass., increase from $2.64 to $2.75 per day. Rochester, Vanswanda, N. Y., an increase of 5 cents per hour. Little Falls, N. Y., wage raised $2.50 per day for eight hours. The members of the Brotherhood in Halifax, numbering over 200, struck for increased wages April 1, have secured a compromise settlement, which means a 5 cent per hour increase. Mill men in Rochester, N. Y., on strike since May 1, have secured an increase of 2½ cents per hour to 35 per day and the union shop, this being a clean-cut victory. Strikes in support of trade movements are now on in Birmingham, Ala.; Indianapolis, Ind., (mill men); Manchester, N. H.; Sydney, Canada; Watertville, Me.; Rochester, N. Y.; Utica, N. Y.; Toronto, Canada (mill men); Knoxville, Tenn.; Boston, Mass. (ship carpenters), and Springfield, Ill. The outlook for success in these struck towns is bright.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

Minneapolis, Minn., May 24.—The electrotypers in this city are on strike because of the refusal of the employers to grant a 44-hour week and reasonable hours. In fact, the employers insisted that the electrotypers work nine hours per day, as work was available. The men refused to accept a proposition of this kind, and struck. The total number of The painters of Minneapolis and St. Paul have secured their demands for an eight-hour day, with the same scale as formerly for a nine-hour day. The plasterers of Minneapolis have secured their demands for an eight-hour day, with the same scale as formerly for a nine-hour day. The plasterers of St. Paul have secured their demands for an increase of 5 cents an hour, making the scale $1 per hour. The carpenters of St. Paul have secured their demands for an increase of 5 cents an hour, making the scale $1 per hour. The carpenters of Minneapolis have secured their demands for an eight-hour day, with the same scale as formerly for a forty-four-hour week. These better conditions have been secured without a strike. The carpenters of St. Paul have secured their demands for an increase of 5 cents an hour, making the scale $1 per hour. The Minneapolis Park Board has granted the eight-hour day to employes, at the same scale apply as formerly for a nine-hour day. This places all city work on the eight-hour basis. The Mayor of Minneapolis has just appointed a trade unionist as a member of the Civil Service Commission, John Mulholland, a steamfitter and a member of the local union attached to the United Association.

SALT LAKE NEWS.

Salt Lake City, May 24.—Three local unions of Brewery Workers, after holding a conference with the local body of bosses of the breweries, were unsuccessful in securing an advance in wages and better conditions, and were forced on a strike to enforce their demands. This strike is in addition to the one now on, in the building trades, where a number of organizations are involved in a strike and lockout. It is stated that the employers are making some progress. Since the open-shop war of the Master Builders' Association, the printers and paperhangers have secured a settlement with the employers, and the majority of the men in this craft are again back to work at their new scale of $5 per day.

A BIG STRIKE.

San Francisco, May 24.—The light and power council of California recently called a strike against the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Some 4,000 men responded to the call and came out. This strike involves a principle. That the strike was called because of the unfair attitude of the company toward the council, and the 4,000 men affected. Central California, including Sacramento, Grass Valley, Chico, and other cities, are with the men on strike, asking for 10 cents a day increase in wages and better working conditions.

POSTOFFICE CLERKS ORGANIZE.

Pittsburg, May 24.—Since the passage by Congress of the Postoffice appropriation bill, which carried with it a provision repealing the obnoxious order of one of former Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, placing the postoffice clerks under civil service employes. As a direct result of the repealing of this Executive order the postoffice clerks in this city have organized a local union and affiliated with the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks, the latter organization being a part of the American Federation of Labor.

TRAINMEN IN CONVENTION.

San Francisco, May 24.—The National Convention of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen is in session in this city and the delegates are now in session. It will be the refusal of the railway systems east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River to grant the wage increases. A referendum vote, however, is being taken upon the matter, and it will be known by the end of its result is not expected before June 1.

SHEET METAL WORKERS GAIN.

San Antonio, Tex., May 24.—Since the strike of the local sheet metal workers took place some time ago good progress has been made, four large firms having signed the agreement granting the advanced wage scale, in which the members are now in the employ of the union shop, and the union card displayed in the shops. A number of Independent firms are now in line, and the Master Sheet Metal Workers' Association also have signed the agreement.

GARRETT NOW PRESIDENT.

Washington, May 24.—Michael P. Garrett, of Wescosville, Pa., organizer for the International Association of Steamfitters, was recently made president of the International association by the executive board of that organization to succeed President Kinsella, who died a few months ago. Mr. Garrett is said to be a large organizer and a good executive.